



Highland Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Community Fund 2026 – 2027

Application Guidelines

Background

It is the purpose of the Highland Alcohol & Drugs Partnership (HADP) to achieve improved outcomes for individuals, families and communities by preventing and reducing drug and alcohol related harm. As a multi-agency partnership, HADP is responsible for setting the overarching [alcohol and drugs strategy for Highland](#). The current membership includes: The Highland Council, NHS Highland, Police Scotland, Highland Third Sector Interface, Scottish Prison Service and local drug and alcohol forums.

HADP recognises that there are a range of groups, partners and organisations who have a role in delivering community projects, events or initiatives which will help to address issues associated with problematic alcohol and drug use in their locality.

It is also the responsibility of HADP to support the implementation of [Preventing Harm, Promoting Recovery Alcohol & Drugs Strategic Plan](#) and [Medication Assisted Treatment Standards](#) in Highland. Both strategies are recovery focused and are underpinned by the principles of public health and a human rights-based approach.

1. Who can apply?

- HADP welcomes applications to the [HADP Community Fund](#) from statutory and third sector organisations for projects within The Highland Council area.
- The Community Fund aims to provide **one off** funding to applicants, up to a **maximum amount of £2,500**. Please note: this funding is non-recurrent and therefore cannot be used to sustain long term projects.
- All questions, or correspondence relating to the HADP Community Fund should be directed to nhsh.highlandadp@nhs.scot

2. How do I apply?

- Those interested in applying should initially complete the [Community Fund Application Form 2026 – 2027](#) which will be opened during application windows throughout the year.

- HADP Community Fund allocation meetings are scheduled following each application window to consider applications on a case-by-case basis.
- All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application.
- Successful partner/organisations will receive an email requesting remittance details.
- On receipt of payment details HADP will make the necessary arrangements to have funds transferred to successful parties.

3. Funding

For accounting and reporting purposes, HADP requires to provide evidence of how all funds have been utilised.

- Applications for retrospective funding, staff wages or to clear organisational debt will not be considered.
- HADP will not fund applications for any project where funding is also received directly or indirectly from the alcohol industry, in accordance with the [Conflict of Interest Policy](#).
- Information regarding details of planned activity, timescales for the project, funding already secured and projected costings must be included within the [Community Fund Application Form](#). A full breakdown of costs is required.
- Payment shall be made by HADP in respect of successful Community Fund applications on the understanding that the funds shall be used solely for that purpose.
- Payment shall be made by BACS.
- HADP may recoup funding where the resource provided has not been expended in the delivery of the project as described in the Community Fund application

4. Access to Fund and Reporting

- All applications to the Community Fund should have a clearly defined link to the HADP Strategic Plan (2025-2030) outcomes:
 - Prevent, delay onset, and reduce problem alcohol and drug use
 - Improve access to and benefits from effective, integrated, person centred, quality, and recovery-orientated systems of care
 - Reduce harm and risk experienced by people using alcohol and drugs problem alcohol and drug use
 - Make better use of the whole system to meet the needs of people with problem alcohol and drug use
 - Develop a resilient, skilled, trauma-informed workforce that work in trauma-informed places
 - Ensure effective engagement, governance and reporting arrangements

- Only applications from The Highland Council area will be considered.
- It is the responsibility of all parties who receive HADP Community Funds to complete the [project evaluation form](#) which assesses project outcomes to ensure value for money is demonstrated. For reporting purposes, we expect to receive your feedback form within one month of the project completion.
- The Lead Contact Person must notify the HADP Support Team in writing immediately to if there are barriers preventing progress of the project that will result in decreased project performance or failure to launch. The email address to direct correspondence to is: nhsh.highlandadp@nhs.scot

5. Contact Persons

- The nominated officer on behalf of HADP in respect of any operational issues will be the HADP Coordinator, Eve MacLeod.

HADP Guiding Principles

Linked to HADP values are key principles that will underpin all funding processes and decisions. They set standards that must be demonstrated and evidenced in all projects that will be considered for funding.

Asset and Strengths Based

Asset based approaches facilitate community action that can achieve positive social change by using local knowledge, skills and personal experience. A strengths-based approach values the capacity, skills, knowledge, connections and potential in individuals and communities.

- Recovery – HADP genuinely believes that people can and do recover, to become active and contributing members of society, and that this is fundamental to alcohol and drug service, and policy, development.
- Lived and Living Experience - HADP believes that people and families with personal experience of alcohol or drug problems should be actively involved in planning, delivering and evaluating service provision, because this strengthens accountability, ensures genuine responsiveness to needs, and fosters a sense of ownership and trust. Equally, HADP recognises that not all people with lived experience will want to share their experiences, and that's ok too.
- Peer Support and Mutual Aid - HADP recognises that sustained recovery and positive outcomes are associated with mutual aid and peer support. Mutual aid can make a significant contribution to aftercare, particularly in remote and rural areas where service provision may be limited. This further strengthens recovery communities.

- Whole Family Approach - HADP recognises and supports the value and strengths within the family, support from various services that address family members' needs, which support positive outcomes for the whole family.

Public Health Approach

Focus on preventing poor health, improving health and wellbeing at a population level, using evidence-based approaches to address inequalities connected with social determinants of health, in collaboration with partners and communities.

- Partnership - HADP believes that together, we will benefit from improved outcomes for people, with combination of resources, expertise, and skills.
- Ethical - HADP acknowledges that practice must be professional and ethical. Therefore, it is against policy of HADP to work with companies that create poverty and harm from substances.
- Remote and Rural Lens - HADP believes that equal access to high quality alcohol and drug services should be achieved regardless of geographic location. This requires development of new service models and a significant shift in skill mix across the remote and rural health and social care workforce.
- Quality Improvement - HADP recognises that Quality Improvement practices should be applied to allow for continuous progress, creating better, safer and more effective, more person-centred, services.

Challenge Stigma

Viewing problem alcohol and drug use similarly to other health issues will help to address prejudice and marginalisation. Challenging discriminatory attitudes and practices is essential for building equality and addressing inequality.

- Language Matters - HADP recommends 'People First' language; that focuses first on the person, not the behaviour (e.g. people who use drugs). People First language reminds us to be compassionate and that we are talking about human beings. People with Rights, who deserve Respect, and should be supported in their Recovery.
- Positive Communication - HADP recommends the use of positive images and stories of recovery to provide hope and inspiration to others, whilst challenging stereotypes, stigma and discriminatory attitudes.
- Human Rights Approach - HADP believes everyone's human rights must be upheld, and we need to ensure this is the case for people, adults and children, who experience alcohol and drug problems.